

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 07863 161520Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03 SAM-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /092 W

----- 028548

R 161445Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9355

SECDEF WASHDC//OSAA(ISA)//

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN//ECJ4/J7 SAOCD//

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7863

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, EAID, CG

SUBJ: US-ZAIRE MILITARY COOPERATION

REF: KINSHASA 7690 (EXDIS)

SUMMARY: DCM AND ZAMISH CHIEF MET WITH MOLONGYA SEPT 16 (REFTEL). MOLONGYA SAID (A) ZAIRE HAD DECIDED CREATE MODERN DEFENSE FORCE; (B) PRC, NORTH KOREANS, SOVIETS WILLING FURNISH MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON FAVORABLE TERMS; (C) MOBUTU PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH US AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT AMERICANS COULD DO BEFORE FINALIZING ARRANGEMENTS. PRINCIPAL ITEMS AND PRIORITIES WERE THOSE REFTEL WITH MOST IMPORTANT ADDITION DESIRE TO HAVE ALL TYPES PILOT TRAINING DONE IN US. MOLONGYA PROMISED DETAILED WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GOZ MILITARY REQUIREMENTS PLUS RATIONALE IN COURSE OF THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. DEFENSE MINISTRY SCHEDULED MEETING MORNING SEPTEMBER 14 WITH GEN. MOLONGYA (IN EFFECT, MINISTER OF DEFENSE), COL. PONDE (CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE), DCM AND ZAMISH CHIEF. MOLONGYA BEGAN BY RECALLING HIS TALKS WITH CHINESE, NORTH KOREANS AND SOVIETS. ZAIRE, HE SAID, HAD DECIDED CREATE A MODERN, CREDIBLE DEFENSE FORCE ("FORCE DE DISSUASION"). FORTUNATELY, ZAIRE AT PRESENT HAD NO NEIGHBORING ENEMIES BUT MOBUTU COULD NOT PERMIT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KINSHA 07863 161520Z

ECONOMIC HEART OF THE COUNTRY (I.E. INGA, GECAMINES,

APPROACHES TO MATADI) TO BE COMPLETELY UNPROTECTED AS THEY WERE AT PRESENT. MOLONGYA INDICATED ZAIRE CONCERNED EVEN NOW OVER POSSIBLE IRRATIONAL ATTACK BY AMIN AND OVER POSSIBILITY HOSTILE, WHITE MINORITY REGIMS MIGHT SEIZE POWER IN ANGOLA. SEVERAL TIMES HE SAID THERE NO QUESTION OF BLACKMAIL ("CHANTAGE"). HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU WERE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD RATHER DEAL WITH THE US, THAT MOLONGYA WAS TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE US WAS WILLING TO SUPPORT MILITARY MODERNIZATION PRIOR TO FINALIZING THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PRC, NORTH KOREA AND THE SOVIETS. MOLONGYA REVEALED ZAIRE HAD DECIDED TO TRAIN AND EQUIP THREE DIVISIONS, ONE FOR EACH MAJOR MILITARY REGION: (A) KINSHASA AND BAS ZAIRE (B) HAUT ZAIRE AND EQUATEUR (C) CHABA. NORTH KOREA WAS WILLING TO TRAIN AND EQUIP ONE INFANTRY DIVISION AND NORTH KOREAN MILITARY ATTACHE PRESSING FOR DATE WHEN EQUIPMENT COULD BE SENT. PRC WILLING EQUIP THREE TANK BATTALIONS, ONE EACH OF WHICH WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE THREE DIVISIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. DISCUSSION THEN FOCUSED ON FOUR ITEMS MENTIONED BY MOBUTU TO AMBASSADOR.

3. C-130'S. MOLONGYA SAID BASIC PROBLEM WAS TOO FEW PLANES TO MEET DEMANDS. IN UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCKHEED, ZAIRE WOULD ORDER AN ADDITIONAL SIX C-130'S RATHER THAN THE THREE PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. WHEN ADDED TO THE THREE ALREADY ON ORDER AND THE TWO NOW IN COUNTRY, ZAIRE WOULD HAVE A TOTAL OF ELEVEN C-130'S.

4. M-16'S. MOLONGYA EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION OVER CHANGE IN US POLICY. HE LAMENTED TWO YEARS WHICH HAD BEEN LOST IN UNPRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND WENT OVER SAME GENERAL GROUND AS MOBUTU RE DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH US IN FIELD OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. DCM RESPONDED ALONG LINES PARA 6 REFTTEL AND SAID THIS WAS WHY WE VALUED OPPORTUNITY TO GET AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF ZAIRE'S NEEDS AND INDICATION OF THEIR PRIORITIES FROM MOLONGYA HIMSELF. MOLONGYA SAID INITIAL PURCHASE OF M-16'S WOULD BE FOR A DIVISION (5,000 TO 7,000).

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KINSHA 07863 161520Z

5. PILOT TRAINING. MOLONGYA THEN INDICATED DESIRE TO HAVE ZAIRIAN PILOTS TRAINED IN US. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, DCM AND ZAMISH CHIEF SAID QUESTION COULD BE EXPLORED WITH WASHINGTON IF GOZ DESIRED. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THEY HAD IMPRESSION IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO DO SOMETHING IN FIRST TWO CATEGORIES RATHER THAN LATTER. MOLONGYA ASKED IF PURCHASE OF A-4'S MIGHT INFLUENCE US POSITION ON FIGHTER PILOT TRAINING. (IN REPLY TO ZAMISH CHIEF'S QUESTION, MOLONGYA

SAID ZAIRE MIGHT DECIDE TO PURCHASE A-4'S IN ADDITION TO MIRAGES).

6. AIR DEFENSE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, MOLONGYA CLARIFIED THAT GOZ INTERESTED IN DEFENSE AGAINST LOW LEVEL ATTACK AGAINST INGA, ESTUARY BETWEEN MATADI AND THE SEA, AND GECAMINES. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AND ASSOCIATED RADAR. WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS ON THE THREAT, MOLONGYA SAID ZAIRE HAD TO BE PREPARED FOR CONTINGENCY OF A HOSTILE WHITE MINORITY REGIME IN ANGOLA.

7. ANTI-TANK SYSTEM. MOLONGYA SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED OVER AMIN'S CAPABILITIES AND THE POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT ATTACK ZAIRE. AS TO THE THREAT, HE REPEATED MOBUTU'S STATEMENT CONCERNING 40 OR 45 HEAVY MODERN SOVIET TANKS IN UGANDA. WHEN ZAMISH CHIEF QUERIED MOLONGYA AS TO SUITABILITY OF TERRAIN ALONG ZAIRE UGANDA BORDER FOR USE OF ARMOUR, MOLONGYA ASSERTED TANKS COULD OPERATE IN CERTAIN AREAS. MOLONGYA PROPOSED JOINT ZAIRE-US TEAM TO EVALUATE SITUATION ON THE SPOT WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE ANTI-TANK SYSTEM. SAME TYPE OF STUDY WAS NEEDED TO COUNTER AIR THREAT FROM UGANDA MIG'S AT ARUA.

8. FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE SEPARATE ZAMISH MESSAGE.
HINTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY SALES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINSHA07863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740259-0587
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740943/aaaabkfc.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 7690 (EXDIS)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-ZAIRE MILITARY COOPERATION
TAGS: MASS, EAID, CG, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005